

**IN THE CLAIMS**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior listings.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A magnetic recording head for a helical scan type magnetic recording/reproducing apparatus comprising:  
a multi-gap recording head formed by laminating “n” recording heads and having “n” recording gaps, said “n” being an integer greater than 2,  
wherein,  
said “n” recording gaps are wider than a track pitch and overlap each other in a pitched manner so as to record a pattern of juxtaposed tracks ~~adjacent to one another~~; and  
a gap for recording the last track among “n” recording gaps of said multi-gap recording head being wider than other gaps.
  
2. (Currently Amended) A rotary drum unit for a helical scan type magnetic recording/reproducing apparatus comprising:  
a recording head;  
a reproducing head; and  
a unit for transmitting recording and reproduced signals,  
wherein,  
said recording head comprises a multi-gap recording head formed by laminating “n” recording heads and having “n” recording gaps,  
said “n” recording gaps are wider than a track pitch and overlap each other in a pitched manner so as to record a pattern of juxtaposed tracks ~~adjacent to one another~~; and  
said “n” being an integer greater than 2, and  
a gap for recording the last track among “n” recording gaps of said multi-gap recording head being wider than other gaps.

3. (Previously Amended) The rotary drum unit according to claim 2, further comprising:

two multi-gap reproducing heads, each formed by laminating "n" reproducing heads and having "n" reproducing gaps, are arranged at an angle of  $180^\circ$  to each other.

4. (Previously Amended) The rotary drum unit according to claim 2, wherein:  
the multi-gap reproducing head is formed by laminating "n" recording heads has "2n" reproducing gaps, and is arranged at an angle of  $180^\circ$  to said multi-gap recording head.

5. (Currently Amended) A rotary drum unit capable of recording "n" tracks per rotation, comprising:

two multi-gap reproducing heads each formed by laminating "n" reproducing heads, and having  $(n + m)$  reproducing gaps, and each of the reproducing heads having a head width which is  $1/2$  of a track width or less

wherein,

said n being an integer greater than 2 and m being an integer greater than or equal to 1, respectively.

6. (Currently Amended) A rotary drum unit capable of recording "n" tracks per rotation, comprising:

a multi-gap reproducing head formed by laminating  $(2n+m)$  reproducing heads, and having  $(2n + m)$  reproducing gaps, and each of the reproducing heads having a head width which is  $1/2$  of a track width or less

wherein,

said n being an integer greater than 2 and m being an integer greater than or equal to

7. (Currently Amended) A magnetic recording method for a helical scan type magnetic recording/reproducing apparatus, said apparatus includes a multi-gap recording head formed by laminating "n" recording heads and having "n" recording gaps, said "n" being an integer greater than 2, and said "n" recording gaps are wider than a track pitch and overlap each

other in a pitched manner so as to record a pattern of juxtaposed tracks adjacent to one another;  
and

and a gap for recording the last one of said tracks among “n” gaps of multi-gap recording head being a wider recording gap than other gaps, said method comprising the step of:

recording said tracks by determining a tape running speed such that a minimum recorded track width can be ensured when said multi-gap recording head overwrites after one rotation of recording completed by said gap.

8. (Previously Amended) A magnetic recording/reproducing method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of:

reproducing signals recorded in the recording step by a multi-gap reproducing head formed by laminating multiple reproducing heads and having a head width which is  $1/2$  of a track width or less,

wherein:

two multi-gap reproducing heads each having “n” gaps are arranged at an angle of  $180^\circ$  to each other on a rotary drum as said multi-gap reproducing head, and

said two multi-gap reproducing heads are switched on said rotary drum to transmit reproduced signals therefrom via a rotary transformer having “n” recording channels and “n” reproducing channels.

9. (Previously Amended) A magnetic recording/reproducing method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of:

reproducing signals recorded by the recording step by a multi-gap reproducing head formed by laminating multiple reproducing heads and having a head width which is  $1/2$  of a track width or less,

wherein:

a multi-gap reproducing head having “2n” gaps is arranged at an angle of  $180^\circ$  to said multi-gap recording head on a rotary drum as said multi-gap reproducing head; and

said n-channel multi-gap recording head and said multi-gap reproducing head are switched on said rotary drum to transmit reproduced signals from said multi-gap reproducing head via a rotary transformer having “n” recording channels and “n” reproducing channels.

10. (Previously Amended) A magnetic recording/reproducing method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of:

reproducing said signals recorded by the recording step by two multi-gap reproducing heads, each having  $(n + m)$  gaps, said "m" being an integer greater than or equal to 1.

11. (Previously Amended) A magnetic recording/reproducing method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of:

reproducing said signals recorded by the recording step by a multi-gap reproducing head having  $(2n + m)$  gaps, said "m" being an integer greater than or equal to 1.

12. (Currently Amended) A helical scan type magnetic recording/reproducing apparatus comprising:

a multi-gap recording head formed by laminating "n" recording heads and having "n" recording gaps, said "n" recording gaps are wider than a track pitch and overlap each other in a pitched manner so as to record a pattern of juxtaposed tracks adjacent to one another; and

a gap for recording the last track among said "n" recording gaps of said multi-gap recording head being wider than other gaps to obtain a recorded pattern of narrow tracks, wherein,

said signals are reproduced by a multi-gap reproducing head having  $(2n + m)$  gaps, said multi-gap reproducing head formed by laminating  $(2n + m)$  reproducing heads, and

said "n" being an integer greater than 2 and "m" being an integer greater than or equal to 1.

13. (Previously Amended) The magnetic recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising:

two multi-gap reproducing heads each having "n" reproducing gaps are arranged at an angle of  $180^\circ$  to each other on a rotary drum.

14. (Previously Amended) The magnetic recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising:

a multi-gap reproducing head having "2n" reproducing gaps is arranged at an angle of  $180^\circ$  to said multi-gap recording head.

15. (Currently Amended) A magnetic recording/reproducing apparatus capable of recording a pattern of "n" tracks per rotation, comprising:

two multi-gap reproducing heads each having (n + m) reproducing gaps said multi-gap reproducing head formed by laminating (n + m) reproducing heads, and each of the reproducing heads having a head width which is 1/2 of a track width or less,

wherein,

said "n" being an integer greater than 2 and "m" being an integer greater than or equal to 1.

16. (Currently Amended) A magnetic recording/reproducing apparatus capable of recording a pattern of "n" tracks per rotation, comprising:

a multi-gap reproducing head having (2n + m) reproducing gaps, said multi-gap reproducing head formed by laminating (2n+m) reproducing heads, and each of the reproducing heads having a head width which is 1/2 of a track width or less

wherein,

said "n" being an integer greater than 2 and "m" being an integer greater than or equal to 1.